

1 REMARKS

2 Status of the Claims

3 Claims 1-5, 9, 13, 25-28, 32, 34, 48-51, and 54 are pending in the present application, with
4 Claims 6, 16-19, 21-24, 29, 30, 33, 35-46, and 52 having been previously canceled, Claims 7, 8, 10-12,
5 14, 15, 20, 31, 47 and 53 having been canceled herein. Claims 1, 9, 25, and 48-51 have been amended
6 to more clearly define the invention.

7 Summary of Telephone Interviews with the Examiners

8 On June 12, 2008, Examiner Suhol and applicant's attorney (Michael C. King, Registration
9 No. 44,832) discussed the hinge assembly in Claims 1, 25 and 49, wherein the claimed hinge assembly
10 coupled sector gears together.

11 The Examiner explained that coupled language was being read to encompass configurations in
12 which the movement of the hinge induced movement in the sector gears, even when the hinge was not
13 physically attached to the sector gears. The Examiner further explained that narrowing the claims to read
14 only a structure where the hinge assembly was directly attached to the sector gears would require a new
15 search, and that such an amendment would not be acceptable without the filing of a Request for
16 Continued Examination.

17 On July 10, 2008, Examiner Teresa Bonk (to whom the application had been recently transferred)
18 and applicant's attorney (Michael C. King, Registration No. 44,832) discussed a proposed amendment
19 which had been previously submitted to Examiner Suhol. Examiner Bonk indicated that the proposed
20 amendment would place the case in condition for allowance, except for Claims 7, 9, 10 and 47. After a
21 brief discussion regarding dependent Claim 10, it was agreed that canceling Claims 7, 10, and 47, and
22 amending Claim 9 such that Claim 9 depended upon Claim 1 rather than Claim 47 would place the case
23 in condition for allowance. The current amendment cancels Claims 7, 10, and 47, and amends Claim 9
24 such that Claim 9 depends upon Claim 1.

25 Applicant's attorney would like to thank Examiners Suhol and Bonk for taking the time to discuss
26 the issues noted above during the Telephone Interviews.

27 Rejection of Claims 48 and 49 under 35 U.S.C. § 112

28 The Examiner has rejected Claims 48 and 49 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point
29 out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

1 With respect to Claim 48, in subparagraph (d) the references to *a sector gear* have been replaced
2 with *the sector gear*.

3 With respect to Claim 49, the missing word *second* has been added.

4 The amendments noted above address the indefinite issues identified by the Examiner, and the
5 rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 should be withdrawn.

6 Rejection of Claims 7, 10, and 47 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

7 Claims 7, 10 and 47 have been canceled, thus their rejection is moot.

8 Rejection of Claims 1-3, 5, 13, 16, 25-26, 29-30, 32, 34, 36, 49, and 53 as Being Obvious

9 The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-3, 5, 13, 16, 25-26, 29-30, 32, 34, 36, 49, and 53 as being
10 obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,365,766 (Takahashi) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,715,334 (Kimura).

11 Claims 16, 29, 30, and 36 were previously canceled, thus their current rejection is moot. Claim 53
12 is canceled herein, thus its rejection is moot.

13 Independent Claims 1, 25 and 49 have been amended to recite the hinge assembly comprising a
14 pivot and link arms attached to sector gears. Claims 1, 25, and 49 further recite additional elements
15 such as first and second working surfaces and a frame, which in combination with the recited hinge
16 appear to patentably distinguish over the cited art.

17 Accordingly, the rejection of Claim 1 as being obvious in view of Takashi and Kimura should be
18 withdrawn. Claims 2, 3, and 5 each depend from Claim 1 and are patentable for at least the same reasons.

19 Accordingly, the rejection of Claim 25 as being obvious in view of Takashi and Kimura should be
20 withdrawn. Claims 26, 32, and 34 each depend from Claim 25, and are patentable for at least the same
21 reasons.

22 Accordingly, the rejection of Claim 49 as being obvious in view of Takashi and Kimura should be
23 withdrawn

24 Rejection of Claims 1-5, 7-10, 13, 25-28, 32, 34, 47, 49-50 as Being Obvious

25 The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-5, 7-10, 13, 25-28, 32, 34, 47, 49, and 50 as being obvious
26 over U.S. Patent No. 5,295,385 (Murai) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,715,334 (Kimura).

27 Claims 7, 8, 10 and 47 have been canceled, thus their current rejection is moot.

28 Independent Claim 1 has been amended to recite the hinge assembly comprising a pivot and link
29 arms attached to sector gears. Claim 1 further recites additional elements such as first and second
30 working surfaces and a frame, which in combination with the recited hinge appear to patentably

1 distinguish over the cited art. Thus, the rejection of Claim 1 as being obvious in view of Murai and
2 Kimura should be withdrawn. Claim 9 has been amended to depend from Claim 1. Claims 2-5, 9 and 13
3 each depend from Claim 1 and are patentable for at least the same reasons.

4 Independent Claim 25 has been amended to recite the hinge assembly comprising a pivot and link
5 arms attached to sector gears. Claim 25 further recites additional elements such first and second
6 working surfaces and a frame, which in combination with the recited hinge appear to patentably
7 distinguish over the cited art. Thus, the rejection of Claim 25 as being obvious in view of Murai and
8 Kimura should be withdrawn. Claims 26-28, 32, and 34 each depend from Claim 25, and are patentable
9 for at least the same reasons.

10 Independent Claims 49 and 50 have been amended to recite the hinge assembly comprising a
11 pivot and link arms attached to sector gears. Claims 49 and 50 further recite additional elements such
12 as first and second working surfaces and a frame, which in combination with the recited hinge appear
13 to patentably distinguish over the cited art. Claims 49 and 50 therefore appear patentable for the same
14 reasons as Claim 54. Thus, the rejection of Claims 49 and 50 as being obvious in view of Murai and
15 Kimura should be withdrawn.

16 Rejection of Claims 7-10, 25, 26, 28, 32, 34, and 47 as Being Obvious

17 The Examiner has rejected Claims 7-10, 25, 26, 28, 32, 34, and 47 as being obvious over U.S.
18 Patent No. 5,365,766 (Takahashi) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,295,385 (Murai) and U.S. Patent
19 No. 6,715,334 (Kimura).

20 Claims 7, 8, 10 and 47 have been canceled, thus their current rejection is moot.

21 Claim 9 has been amended to depend from Claim 1, which is patentable for the reasons noted
22 above. Claim 9 is patentable for at least the same reasons.

23 Independent Claim 25 has been amended to recite the hinge assembly comprising a pivot and link
24 arms attached to sector gears. Claim 25 further recites additional elements such as first and second
25 working surfaces and a frame, which in combination with the recited hinge appear to patentably
26 distinguish over the cited art. Thus, the rejection of Claim 25 as being obvious in view of Takahashi,
27 Murai and Kimura should be withdrawn. Claims 26, 28, 32, and 34 each depend from Claim 25, and are
28 patentable for at least the same reasons.

1 Rejection of Claims 50 and 51 as Being Obvious

2 The Examiner has rejected Claims 50 and 51 as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 2,433,841
3 (Glud) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,715,334 (Kimura).

4 Claims 50 and 51 have been amended to recite the hinge assembly comprising a pivot and link
5 arms attached to sector gears. Claims 50 and 51 further recite additional elements such as first and
6 second working surfaces and a frame, which in combination with the recited hinge appear to
7 patentably distinguish over the cited art. Claims 50 and 51 therefore appear patentable for the same
8 reasons as Claim 54. The amendments to Claims 50 and 51 also address the support structure
9 language objected to by the Examiner. Thus, the rejection of Claims 50 and 51 should be withdrawn.

10 Express Request for Telephone Interview if Required to Place Case in Condition for Allowance

11 In view of the Remarks set forth above, it will be apparent that all of the claims in this
12 application define a novel and non-obvious invention, and that the application is in condition for
13 allowance and should be passed to Issue without further delay. Should any further questions
14 remain, the Examiner is requested to telephone applicant's attorney at the number listed below, in
15 order to expediently conclude the already extended prosecution of this application.

16
17 Respectfully submitted,

18
19
20 /mike king/
21 Michael C. King
22 Registration No. 44,832

23 MCK/RMA:bmd
24
25
26
27
28
29
30